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JACKSON, ELIZABETH GOLDEN. Living Arrangements and Housing Conditions of Selected Old Age Assistance Recipients in Three Mississippi Counties, 1965-1973. (1973) Directed by: Dr. Jane H. Crow. Pp. 65

The purpose of the study was to determine the living arrangements and housing conditions of forty Old Age Assistance recipients in three Mississippi counties--Copiah, Hinds, and Madison--who participated in a 1965 study made by Crocker. Data were collected by personal interview and from case records of the subjects.

Five hypotheses were tested: three taken from Crocker's study and two concerning changes in living arrangements and housing conditions. Living arrangements and housing conditions of the subjects were tested with six variables (age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health) for significant relationships.

Statistically significant relationships were found to exist between: the living arrangements of the recipients and their race, health, and marital status; the living arrangements of the subjects and their housing conditions; and the presence of plumbing facilities in the dwellings of the OAA recipients and in the year round housing units of the three counties. Respondents who were white, confined to their homes, or not married were most likely to be living in the home of a relative or in an institution. Housing conditions were better for those subjects living out of their homes. Less than two-thirds of the dwellings occupied by the OAA recipients had all plumbing facilities in contrast to almost 90 percent of the year round housing units in the counties with all facilities.

There were statistically significant changes in the living arrangements and housing conditions of the subjects between 1965 and

1973. Slightly more than one-fifth of the respondents had moved from their homes to the home of a relative or to an institution. A bathtub or shower and toilet were found in the homes of 28.2 percent more of the subjects in 1973. The homes of fewer subjects needed repairs in 1973.

Living in one's own home was the living arrangement reported by a majority (55 percent) of the OAA recipients surveyed. The data revealed, however, that those subjects living with relatives or in institutions had better housing conditions.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND HOUSING CONDITIONS OF  
" "  
SELECTED OLD AGE ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS IN  
THREE MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES, 1965-1973

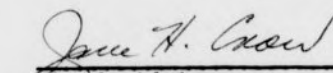
by

Elizabeth Golden Jackson  
" "

A Thesis Submitted to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School at  
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
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Approved by

  
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The literature related to the elderly and their housing reflects two general assumptions: a desire for independence and a low economic status. Government sponsored financial aid programs have enabled the aged to retain their independence to a degree. However, many elderly persons dependent on financial aid still live below the upper limits of poverty.

A feeling of insecurity often accompanies limited income for older persons. The loss of a feeling of security has been identified as a very serious emotional problem concerning the aged. The preference of elderly persons to live in their own homes demonstrates their desire for independence. However, older persons generally live in older houses, and the literature supports the belief that the majority of the elderly poor live in sub-standard dwellings.

A report from the 1960 White House Conference on Aging defined the need for information about the elderly and their housing:

This discussion for housing for the aged should be based firmly on a survey of the housing facilities now occupied by persons 65 years of age and over. It should show the extent to which such facilities are owned and rented, the degree to which these facilities are adequate, and insofar as they are not adequate, and which residential and racial groups are lacking. Unfortunately, almost no data are available which indicate specific housing facilities and their conditions, occupied by the aged population. Whatever data can be obtained for this purpose must be garnered from a variety of sources and almost all of it must be applied

indirectly to reveal the nature and the extent of the problem of housing for the aged (35:88).

At the 1972 Southern Conference on Gerontology, Palmore recommended that local surveys be used to find "the actual frequency and distribution of various kinds of needs in the local community or state . . ." (23:101). The use of local surveys insures a more homogeneous population because a smaller geographic area reduces the number of variables (e.g., climate, ruralness, industrial activity) and allows the researcher to "secure adequate information with a smaller sample size" (23:101-102).

In 1965, Crocker studied the housing and economic conditions and living arrangements of Old Age Assistance (OAA) recipients in Mississippi. The OAA program exists under the Social Security Act to assist needy aged. Crocker's study sought to identify the relation between the living arrangements and housing conditions of OAA recipients in Mississippi and the variables of age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health (7:3-4). She found that the majority of the subjects lived in inadequate housing and that financial aid was grossly inadequate (7:84).

Current information about top priority groups (in terms of need) is vital to the effectiveness of aid programs. Palmore endorsed the replication of local studies to identify current needs and to measure change and effectiveness of programs (23:102). When policy making bodies utilize these kinds of findings, they are better able to fill gaps in financial and service programs. Information concerning the elderly and their housing situation is pertinent to such local agencies

as church and civic groups. When agencies direct the impact of their aid programs toward the specific needs of a target group, their organization becomes more efficient and quality of life for that group is more apt to be improved.

#### PURPOSES

The purposes of this study were to determine the housing conditions and living arrangements of a selected group of Old Age Assistance (OAA) recipients in three Mississippi counties--Copiah, Hinds, and Madison; and to compare these findings with the results of the 1965 study made by Crocker.

To these specific questions answers were sought: How do the variables age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health affect the living arrangements and housing conditions of this group of Mississippians? Have the living arrangements and housing conditions of these OAA recipients changed since 1965?

#### DEFINITIONS

The following terms are specifically defined for use in this study:

1. Living arrangements--a description of the type of dwelling unit in which one lives and the state of independence-dependence of the individual as it relates to housing.
2. Housing conditions--the state of repair of the dwelling unit (number and types of repairs needed) and the presence of plumbing facilities (hot and cold running water, private indoor toilet, bathtub or shower).

### HYPOTHESES

In order to compare findings, the researcher retested three of Crocker's hypotheses and tested two additional hypotheses concerning changes in living arrangements and housing conditions.

1. There is no significant relationship between the types of living arrangements of the subjects and their age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health.
2. There is no significant relationship between the housing conditions of the recipients and their age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health.
3. There is no significant relationship between the housing conditions of the recipients and the housing conditions of the county (7:4).
4. There is no significant difference between the types of living arrangements of the subjects in 1965 and 1973.
5. There is no significant difference between the housing conditions of the recipients in 1965 and 1973.

### ASSUMPTIONS

The basic assumptions for the study were:

1. The researcher would be able to locate and interview the living members of Crocker's sample in Copiah, Hinds, and Madison counties.
2. The instruments used would elicit honest answers from the respondents.
3. The instruments used were valid and reliable since they were developed by a federal governmental agency and had been administered to a large sample.
4. The information necessary to answer questions concerning financial aid would be readily available.

## LIMITATIONS

Comparison with the original study was limited by the difference in size and geographic area of the two samples. In 1965, Crocker systematically selected a statewide two percent sample (1,447 persons) of OAA recipients in Mississippi (7:18). Forty persons from three selected Mississippi counties (Copiah, Hinds, and Madison) who were members of Crocker's sample were the subjects for this study.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature describing the elderly and their housing emphasizes their desire for independence, their lower economic status, and their physical limitations. The independence of older persons is limited by lower incomes and physical impairments. In order to achieve greater independence, the elderly need support physically, economically, and emotionally. Kent maintained that successful aging includes "open opportunity for choice" (14:18). At the 1972 Southern Conference on Gerontology, Kent cited "greater flexibility in governmental and non-governmental spheres of life" (14:18) as a means of increasing the number of alternatives open for elderly persons.

In the following review of literature, the design of one economic aid program, population trends, living arrangements, mobility, and quality of housing of the elderly are examined. The theme of independence and the factors hindering it is interwoven in the findings of studies concerning living arrangements, mobility, and housing conditions of older people. The material has been organized under three topics: Assistance for the Aged, Living Arrangements, and Housing Conditions.

#### ASSISTANCE FOR THE AGED

The literature pointed out relationships between increased age and economic dependence. Federal aid programs for the elderly were

designed to serve as a partial remedy to this problem. One such plan, the Old Age Assistance (OAA) program, was enacted as part of the Social Security Act of 1935 (30:183). In a 1943 report, Jane Hoey, director of the federal Bureau of Public Assistance, stated that the central purpose of agencies administering OAA should be not only to give financial aid but also to direct persons needing care and services to the available resources of the community (9:iii).

In 1965 Gray reported that almost 40 percent of all the elderly poor in the United States were dependent on the OAA program for financial resources (10:13). Mugge, also reviewing the OAA program, related increased longevity to the need for assistance: for persons aged 65-69 years, only one in sixteen was an OAA recipient, but one out of every three persons aged 85 and over received assistance (18:13).

Robbins reported at the 1971 White House Conference on Aging that 50 percent of the OAA population reside in the Southern states (25:13). In June, 1970, there were 73,534 OAA recipients in Mississippi. A bulletin published in 1973 by the Mississippi State Department of Public Welfare (17) stated that the Old Age Assistance program functioned to provide money payments and services for persons 65 years of age or older who are not able to meet their everyday needs. According to the report, recipients received a maximum of \$75 per month, dependent on any other income and the dollar amount necessary to meet the individual's everyday needs by welfare standards. Persons eligible for OAA also received Medicaid benefits. Criteria for eligibility for receipt of OAA payments in Mississippi in 1973 were as follows:



1. The applicant must be 65 years of age or older.
2. The applicant must live in the county in which he applies for assistance.
3. The applicant must not be permanently residing in a public institution.
4. The applicant may not own a home with an assessed value of more than \$3,500.
5. The applicant may not own any property or cash with a value of over \$600 or \$1,200 if the applicant has dependents.
6. The applicant must not have made any transfer of property within the last two years in order to qualify for the OAA program.
7. The applicant must be in need of more income to take care of his everyday living expenses (17:1).

The elderly population in Mississippi exhibited growth trends similar to the pattern of the United States; the number of aged persons in the state has continually increased since 1940 (12:5).

Hays' analysis of the 1970 population count revealed three trends for the elderly in Mississippi:

1. The rate of increase for persons over age 65 was greater than the rate of increase for the general population. The elderly population increased by 17 percent, whereas the general population grew by only 1.8 percent.
2. The segment of the older population over age 75 had a greater increase (23.5 percent) than did the elderly group aged 65-74 (13.6 percent).
3. The number of older women increased more than the number of older men (24.3 percent versus 8.6 percent) (12:6).

The elderly represented 10 percent of the state's total population in 1970 (12:5). In the segment of the population over age 65, there were more women than men. According to the 1970 Mississippi Census of

Population, women comprised 56.8 percent of the older persons in the state.

#### LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

All age groups have need for safe and suitable housing. Robbins observed that this need is perhaps even more critical for the aged population: "They want and need shelter at costs they can afford. However, they want more. They desire a place to live that is 'home'" (25:1).

Independent living for the elderly was cited by Beyer and Nierstrasz as a prevailing theme in western countries (4:13). In a study of the attitudes and preferences of 5,200 older persons, Beyer (3:350) found that almost all respondents preferred to live alone. Of the married couples and unmarried females living by themselves, 60 percent favored living alone and near their relatives. Actually, 77 percent of the married couples lived alone, with 60 percent of the unmarried females living in their own households. Most of the remainder of those interviewed by Beyer favored living alone and away from relatives (3:362). From a study concerning the elderly and their living arrangements, Beyer and Wahl concluded that the general preference of older people for independent living suggested a possible relation between this type of living arrangement and longer and happier lives for the elderly (5:9).

Studies made by Hawkins (1957), The National Council on the Aging (Project FIND, 1972), and Hays (1973) showed that approximately

one-third of all elderly persons lived alone. According to the results of Project FIND and Hays' study, another third of the aged lived with their spouse. The remaining 32.4 percent in Hays' sample lived with children or other relatives (12:Table 2). The National Council on the Aging reported that out of 9 million dwelling units occupied by older persons in 1956, 2½ million of the units provided housing for one person households (19:1C).

According to Steiner and Dorfman, the largest group within the aged population is the unmarried or unrelated female. The unrelated individual either lives alone or with persons not related to him. There are almost twice as many unrelated females as unrelated males (29:20). Vast differences in the living arrangements of aged men and women were found by Shanas in a nationwide study of the health needs of older people. Almost seven out of every ten men lived with their spouse, but less than four in ten women were married (27:460).

Age greatly affects the independent living of older persons. According to a 1960 study by Mugge, 75 percent of the youngest of those 65 or older lived in their own homes, but only 32 percent of the oldest lived alone. Likewise, the percentage of those living in the homes of others increased from 22 percent of those just over 65 to 44 percent of the oldest (18:14). Beyer and Wahl's findings indicated that age did not become a crucial factor until a person reached the 80-year period. Even so, almost three-fourths of this group continued to live in their homes (5:10).

The living arrangements of a statewide sample of Mississippi OAA recipients were studied by Crocker in 1965. Living in one's own

home was reported to be the predominant living arrangement of the group (7:35). The relationship between the living arrangement of the OAA recipients and their age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health was tested. All six variables related significantly to living arrangement. The following relationships were found: the number of recipients living in their own homes decreased as their age increased (7:36), was greater for males than for females (7:38), was greater for married recipients (7:40), was greater for urban and rural-nonfarm residents (7:40), and was greater for those respondents not confined to their homes (7:45). The number of recipients living in the home of a child or parent was greater for whites than for Negroes; more Negroes than whites lived with non-relatives or other relatives; and more whites than Negroes lived in institutions (7:39).

The living arrangements of widowed recipients not confined to their homes were significantly related to race and age (7:54). It was found that more of the white widowed recipients lived in the home of a relative, while more of the non-white widowed recipients remained in their own home (7:46). As the age of widowed recipients increased, the number living in the home of a relative also increased (7:46).

The rate of residential mobility for this sample of OAA recipients was low; only 9.8 percent of the respondents had moved during the year preceding the study. More of the recipients who had moved had changed their place of residence rather than their living arrangement (7:55).

The low mobility of elderly persons is supported by many studies. In a background paper for the 1971 White House Conference on

Aging, Robbins stated that despite defective housing, financial insecurity, or loneliness, most older people simply do not want to change localities (25:7). Although almost one-third of those persons over age 65 do move, no more than 4 percent move to another state (25:7-8). Phillips interviewed persons aged 60 years or older in a central Illinois community. Seven percent of the respondents had moved within the year, but 62 percent of the sample had lived at the same address for more than ten years (24:16).

Housing costs and choices of the older consumer were investigated by Williams and Peterson. Their study showed that older persons moved most frequently after the death of a spouse or friend, or because of their own declining health (37:3). Although these elderly persons preferred less responsibility, their desire to remain in the same location was the determinant factor in choosing a living arrangement (37:28). Havighurst and Albrecht studied the lives of older people in a small midwestern city. Their findings supported the idea that most elderly people prefer not to change their living arrangement unless absolutely necessary, but they reported that the death of a spouse or loss of health caused moving to another place to be very common among the elderly (11:28). Vivrett's findings included income reduction as a factor causing changes in living arrangements (34:554-555).

#### HOUSING CONDITIONS

Literature supported the belief that the majority of elderly low-income persons live in sub-standard dwellings. According to Niebanck, ". . . when size, location, safety, and environmental factors



are taken into account, virtually all of the low-income residents . . . are inappropriately housed in one important respect or another" (20:39).

The 1970 Census of Housing presented Mississippi as a rural state. Census data showed rural housing to be of poorer quality than urban housing. Of all dwelling units in Mississippi, 24.3 percent lacked some or all plumbing facilities; 35.8 percent of all rural dwelling units lacked some or all plumbing facilities. Of the rural housing units 31.5 percent had no flush toilet, and 32.5 percent had no bathtub or shower (32:26-7, 26-8).

The 1970 Census of Housing defined complete kitchen facilities as having ". . . an installed sink with piped water, a range or cook-stove, and a mechanical refrigerator" (32:App-5). Eighty-one percent of all units in Mississippi were reported with complete kitchen facilities as compared with 71 percent of all rural units with these facilities (32:26-8).

Hinds County, located in a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, had the highest percentage (of the three counties included in the study) of housing units with all facilities, including an available telephone (32:26-19). Copiah County is primarily a rural county. As many as 20 percent of the rural dwelling units lacked one or more of the selected housing facilities (32:26-108). Madison County is also classed as a rural county, and more of the rural units in that county lacked plumbing and kitchen facilities than did units in Copiah County (32:26-116).

Because OAA recipients generally have lower incomes, it could be expected that many of their dwellings lack some or all facilities. However, Crocker found that the percentage of OAA recipients lacking plumbing facilities in their housing was no greater than the percentage for the entire state. Among the dwelling units of OAA recipients, 53.7 percent had running water as compared with 51.1 percent of the occupied dwellings in the state which had running water (7:84). Crocker pointed out that sound housing is much more critical to the elderly person because of failing health, difficulty of movement, and other factors (7:84).

In Crocker's 1965 survey, respondents living in dwellings with the fewest number of defects were those who lived with relatives other than children or parents, with nonrelatives, or who lived in an institution, and were confined to their homes (7:71). Those recipients living in urban areas in any living arrangement had fewer defects in their homes than recipients living in rural areas (7:70). White recipients living in the home of a relative, nonrelative, or in an institution had fewer defects in their homes (7:69). Fewer housing defects were found in the dwellings of females living in their own homes than in the homes of male respondents (7:67). Running water in the house was reported more frequently by whites, recipients living in urban areas, and those subjects who were confined to their homes (7:63,66).

In 1973, Hays (12) studied the status and needs of older Mississippians by using a set of social indicators to measure the quality of life of a selected sample of older persons. The housing,

social relations and activities, life satisfaction, health, economic well-being, and independence of these persons were measured both objectively and subjectively on a scale from 0.00 to 1.00. The objective and subjective scores in each category were averaged to obtain a master social indicator; the six master indicators were then averaged to compute an overall social indicator (12:8-9). The overall social indicator for Mississippi was .630; of all categories, the master indicator score for economic well-being was the lowest (.358) and that for housing was the highest (.839) (12:Table 21). Economic indicator scores were based on amount of family gross money income, dollar value of current family assets, dollar amount of current family liabilities, and welfare ratio--"the amount of annual gross family income as fraction of family budget standard" (12:24). Satisfaction with one's economic condition was also identified (12:25). Housing quality factors measured were plumbing and heating facilities, availability of private space and telephone, and satisfaction with housing and neighborhood (12:18-20). Of the 698 persons interviewed, 78.4 percent had private toilet facilities in their homes; 73.2 percent had hot running water at all times; 57.7 percent had heat in every room; and 70.8 percent had telephones in their homes (12:Table 14). Almost three-fourths of all the elderly responding believed their condition to be as good or better than that of other people (12:Table 14).

Kent reported in 1966 that almost one-third of America's older population live in housing that lacks such common facilities as flush toilet, hot and cold water, and bathtub (15:217-218). Results of survey



research conducted by Phillips in an Illinois community in 1962 were more optimistic. Only three percent of the sample lacked a private bathroom (24:15).

The quality of housing was related to the age of the dwelling by Sheldon and Tibbitts. They reported that older people live in older housing, and the age of the unit bespeaks its poorer quality (28:107). They concluded that one-third of the households with heads aged 65 and over had substandard housing (28:130). The relation of lower income to limited choice in housing was examined by Wilner and Walkley. Of 9.1 million housing units owned by persons over age 60, there was delapidation or absence of some plumbing facility in 20.4 percent of the units (38:228).

The housing conditions of the elderly poor in a southern city and the rural area around it were summarized in the 1972 Project FIND report by the National Council on the Aging as follows:

They tend to cluster in crowded substandard sections near the city. They live in small houses or apartments, many of which constitute a health hazard due to leaky roofs, makeshift steps, and poor plumbing. One unsanitary outhouse is frequently used by as many as four families (21:15).

The elderly poor in twelve sections of the country were sought out in Project FIND (21). The study revealed that 20 percent of those persons classed as older poor had no indoor toilet; 12 percent, no running water; 22 percent, no telephone (21:27). Close relationships between housing conditions and income, marital status, and age of the elderly person were disclosed. Persons with higher incomes generally had more facilities (electricity, plumbing facilities, heat, range,

refrigerator, washing machine, and telephone) in their homes (21:74-75). The importance of marital status was evidenced by the fact that 38 percent of the married persons had all facilities but only 29 percent of the single persons had complete facilities (21:76). The quality of the older person's housing tended to decline with his age. The number of dwellings with complete facilities decreased from 36 percent of persons aged 65 years to 29 percent of persons aged 90 years (21:77).

The housing of 55 OAA recipients in one rural Mississippi county was studied by Coopwood (6). All white recipients in Coopwood's sample had electricity and an electric refrigerator. Although 45 percent of the whites had running water, another 15 percent had no well and had to haul water (6:34). Only 31 percent of the black recipients had running water. Thirty-two of the fifty-five respondents did not have bathrooms in their homes (6:35).

Fifty percent of the nation's Old Age Assistance population lived in seventeen Southern states in 1965. Robbins' analysis of a survey of over two million OAA recipients indicated that the homes in the Southern states represented 68 percent of all the substandard housing reported by all OAA recipients. Four out of every ten of these welfare recipients reported one or more major defects in their homes (25:13).

The necessity of adequate, safe housing for the elderly was best summarized in the Project FIND report:

Safe and suitable housing is probably the most important single environmental factor in the well-being of elderly persons. It is, of course, a desirable commodity for persons of all ages. But for the aged it may mean the difference between living independently

or in an institution; between solitude and socialization; between safety and danger; or in extreme cases between life and death (21:72).

#### SUMMARY

The number of elderly persons in the United States and in Mississippi has continued to increase over the past several decades. Demographic analysis of the 1970 Mississippi population over age 65 indicated that there were more women than men in that population and that the segment over the age of 75 has increased faster than the group aged 65 to 74.

In order to afford elderly citizens greater freedom of choice, many assistance programs have been enacted. One such program is the Old Age Assistance program, designed to administer financial support and needed services to the elderly poor.

When older persons are given a choice, they generally prefer to live alone and near relatives. Studies indicated that living in one's own home is the predominant living arrangement of the elderly. Aged persons prefer not to change their place of residence but are often forced to move because of falling health, death of a spouse, or reduction in income.

Housing units of elderly persons are more likely than those of the general populus to be lacking some facility or be in need of repair. Older persons generally live in older housing, usually of poorer quality than that of others. Housing conditions are generally better for senior citizens who are younger, female, white, residents of urban areas, or living in the home of another person.

### CHAPTER III

#### PROCEDURE

This study sought to determine the living arrangements and housing conditions of a selected group of Old Age Assistance (OAA) recipients in three Mississippi counties and to compare these findings with the results of the 1965 study made by Crocker. Further, the study sought to determine whether a significant relation existed between the respondents' living arrangements and housing conditions and their age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health.

#### SUBJECTS

The subjects were the living members of Crocker's 1965 study who resided in the three adjacent Mississippi counties of Copiah, Hinds, and Madison. These counties were selected for the study because they were the only three adjacent counties in the state with over fifty members of Crocker's sample within their boundaries.

A list of fifty-three persons was compiled by the Mississippi State Department of Public Welfare in January, 1973. However, three persons died between then and the time of data collection in March, one moved to another county, and nine could not be located. Thus, seven Old Age Assistance recipients living in Copiah County, twenty-one living in Hinds County, and twelve living in Madison County comprised the sample of forty persons.

The Department of Public Welfare in each of the three counties furnished the address for each subject living in that county. A letter was written to each subject asking for cooperation and to establish a time for an interview.

#### INSTRUMENTS

The two interview schedules used by Crocker had been developed by the Bureau of Family Services, Welfare Administration, United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. One of these schedules contained items regarding social characteristics, income, and needs of OAA recipients. For convenience in this study, this schedule was assigned the title of Economic Condition Questionnaire (Appendix A). The other schedule contained items concerning place of birth, age, OAA case opening, education, occupation, plumbing and heating facilities, and health problems. This instrument was assigned the title of Housing Condition and Living Arrangement Questionnaire (Appendix A). Both instruments were adapted to better meet the specific purposes of this study and to facilitate data collection.

Three adaptations of Crocker's instruments were made:

1. Items in the two schedules were reorganized in order to facilitate data collection. Items regarding the recipient's living arrangements, place of residence, age, sex, marital status, housing unit structure, housing tenure, and health were transferred to the Housing Condition and Living Arrangement Questionnaire from the Economic Condition Questionnaire.
2. Items not directly involved in the purpose of this study were deleted. Items pertaining to place of birth and mobility in and out of the state were deleted from the Housing Condition and Living Arrangement Questionnaire.



Items regarding date of OAA case opening, birthdate of spouse, veteran status, and budget amounts were deleted from the Economic Condition Questionnaire.

3. The Housing Condition and Living Arrangement Questionnaire was expanded to include items related to six facilities (telephone, television, radio, range, lighting, and ventilation).

Permission to use and to administer the interview schedules was received from the Mississippi State Department of Public Welfare and the Departments of Public Welfare in Copiah, Hinds, and Madison counties.

#### COLLECTION OF DATA

Data regarding living arrangements and housing conditions of the OAA recipients in the three counties were collected by the investigator. Each subject was interviewed in his home during March, 1973.

Using the Economic Condition Questionnaire, data concerning the kinds of services, kinds of financial aid, and the amount of the OAA payment were collected from case records filed in the county Department of Public Welfare.

Permission was received from thirty-four of the respondents to obtain this information. The case workers at the Copiah County Department of Public Welfare answered the Economic Condition Questionnaire for the subjects in that county. The Director of Public Welfare in Madison County assisted in answering the items on the questionnaire. In Hinds County, the researcher searched the case records of the subjects who had signed a release.

The 1965 interview schedules for the forty OAA recipients were obtained from the Mississippi State Department of Public Welfare.

#### ANALYSIS OF DATA

Since data were in the form of frequencies, chi square analyses were made. In 4-cell tables where expected frequencies were less than five, either Yates' corrected or Fisher's exact method was used in computer computations; the comparison of Yates' corrected and non-corrected estimates suggested by Walker and Lev (34:103-108) was used in hand computation. Probability of .05 was set to reject the null hypotheses.

## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study compared selected aspects related to the housing of a group of OAA recipients in three Mississippi counties with findings in those counties of a 1965 statewide study made by Crocker. Tests for significant relationships were made between living arrangements and housing conditions of the respondents and the variables of age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health. The findings are reported in four parts: (1) demographic characteristics, (2) facilities in the dwellings of the respondents, (3) economic status, and (4) testing of hypotheses.

#### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Information was obtained to provide a general description of the respondents. Six selected characteristics (age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health) were used in the analysis of the data. Table 1 summarizes these characteristics.

#### Age, Sex, Race, Marital Status, Place of Residence, and Health

There were forty OAA recipients in the study, ranging in age from 73 to 97 years. The subjects were divided by age into two groups of almost equal size: a younger group of nineteen subjects aged 73 to 80 years and an older group of twenty-one subjects aged 81 to 97 years.



Table 1

Age, Marital Status, Place of Residence, and Health  
Classified by Race and Sex for  
40 Mississippi OAA Recipients

Characteristic	Total	White (N=10)		Nonwhite (N=30)	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
<u>Age</u>					
73-80	19	1	1	4	13
81-97	21	2	6	4	9
<u>Marital Status</u>					
Married	6	0	0	3	3
Widowed	32	3	6	4	19
Never Married	2	0	1	1	0
<u>Place of Residence</u>					
Metropolitan county	21	1	5	3	12
Nonmetropolitan county	19	2	2	5	10
<u>Health</u>					
Confined to home	13	0	5	1	7
Bedfast (2)		0	1	0	1
Chairfast (1)		0	0	0	1
Need help to get around (10)		0	4	1	5
Not confined to home	27	3	2	7	15

Non-whites outnumbered whites three to one; females were almost three times as numerous as males in the sample. Thirty-two of the recipients, or 80 percent, were widowed. Six respondents were married and two had never been married.

Slightly over one-half of the respondents resided in the metropolitan county, Hinds. The remaining (nineteen) subjects lived in the two nonmetropolitan counties.

The state of health of the respondents for this study is reported as to whether or not the recipient was confined to his home. Of the forty respondents, 67.5 percent were not confined to their homes. The remainder, who were confined, consisted of one recipient who was bedfast, two who were chairfast, and ten who needed help to get around.

Arthritis or rheumatism was the health problem reported most frequently by the respondents. Twenty-five recipients listed arthritis or rheumatism as a health problem. Other problems reported were blindness, high blood pressure, deafness, hip or leg injury, heart trouble, and paralysis.

#### Education and Occupation

The educational level of the respondents was low. Eleven did not know how many grades in school they had completed. Two of the forty subjects had completed high school and five had finished 9-11 grades. Eleven had completed 5-8 grades; seven recipients had completed 1-4 grades in school. Four subjects had had no formal education.

A majority of the respondents (55 percent) had been engaged in some aspect of farming during their productive years. Private household service was the second highest incidence of occupation reported.

#### Types of Dwelling Structures

Eighty percent of the respondents lived in single dwelling units; three subjects lived in multiple unit structures, and one in a mobile home. Four OAA recipients were institutionalized in private care facilities (nursing homes).

#### Housing Tenure

Almost one-third (32.5 percent) of the subjects owned their own homes. One-fourth (27.5 percent) lived with someone who owned the house of residence. Slightly over one-fifth of the respondents (22.5 percent) rented and 7.5 percent occupied their house rent-free. The remaining 10 percent were institutionalized.

#### Household Composition

Exactly one-half of the subjects lived in one- or two-person households; forty percent lived in households with three or more persons. The remaining 10 percent of the sample (four persons) lived in institutions. These four respondents were not included in some of the data analysis since their housing conditions were the optimum for the group and their number was small.

Fifty-five percent of the recipients lived in households consisting of other adults, or other adults and children, or children under eighteen.

Recipients living alone comprised one-fifth of the group. Of the six married respondents, only three lived alone with their spouse; the other three married subjects lived in households with spouse, other adults, and children; or with spouse and other adults.

#### FACILITIES IN THE DWELLINGS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Six selected housing facilities believed to be important to the health and well-being of the individual were chosen for inquiry. The findings are reported under two classifications: communication facilities and safety facilities. The data are reported for all forty subjects.

##### Communication Facilities

Telephones were reported by 70 percent of the respondents. These comprised 80 percent of the white recipients and 66.7 percent of the nonwhites. Hays (12:Table 12) and the Project FIND report (19:27) also indicated that there were telephones in approximately 70 percent of the homes.

Televisions and radios were found in the homes of thirty-two of the forty respondents. All of the white subjects had a television, and only one white respondent did not own a radio. Twenty-two (73.3 percent) of the nonwhite subjects had a television and twenty-three (76.7 percent) had a radio. Facilities for communication are important to the elderly as increased age generally limits their mobility. Hence, they have a need for some means of communication within their homes. The presence of a telephone, television, and/or radio greatly enhances the elderly's opportunities for receiving communication.

### Safety Facilities

Seventy percent (twenty-eight) of the subjects had gas ranges in their homes; four (ten percent) had electric ranges. Three non-white female subjects cooked on wood burning stoves, and one male respondent had no range in his house. The presence of cooking facilities that are safe and easy to use and maintain is of importance to older persons whose sight and dexterity may be impaired.

A ceiling fixture with a diffuser to distribute light evenly throughout a room was designated as the optimum type of fixture in this study. Lighting fixtures were found to be relatively inadequate. Nineteen, or 47.5 percent, of the respondents reported lighting fixtures with diffusers; seventeen had bare bulb type fixtures, and two indicated using a bare bulb on a drop cord. Two subjects used coal oil lamps to light their homes. The type of lighting fixture determines to a great extent the amount and quality of light present in a room. Adequate, evenly distributed light is crucial to the older person whose vision may be impaired. Slightly over one-third (37.5 percent) of the respondents reported that they were blind or nearly blind even with the help of glasses.

Ventilation in the home is another factor in maintaining the health of the individual. Ventilation was rated as adequate since all subjects had windows in every room. Thirteen respondents (32.5 percent) reported broken window panes as a needed repair.

## ECONOMIC STATUS

Thirty-four respondents signed the release needed to obtain information to complete the Economic Condition Questionnaire. It was found that seventeen subjects received the 1973 maximum OAA payment (\$75 per month) compared with ten who received the maximum (\$50) in 1965. Although the OAA recipients received a greater amount of money in 1973, comparison of economic well-being is difficult due to changes in the cost of living, type of living arrangement, benefits received, and needs of the respondents.

Respondents receiving Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (Social Security) payments decreased from 52.5 percent to 47.6 percent. There was no explanation in the records for this decrease. OAA payments to the subjects who also received OASDI benefits in 1973 ranged from \$25 to \$73 per month, dependent on other income and the cost of their everyday living expenses. One respondent's OAA payments had been discontinued at the beginning of 1973 because the amount of his cash reserve was over \$600.

The amount of cash reserves of the subjects in 1965 and 1973 was similar. Approximately 88 percent had under \$100, about 8 percent had between \$100 and \$399; the remainder had higher amounts of reserve.

Twelve children of recipients contributed to their parent's living expenses in 1973; only four children gave economic support in 1965. This increase was probably due to changes in the living arrangement of the subjects. More respondents had moved out of their own homes in 1973.



All subjects received Medicaid benefits. The four institutionalized subjects received personal care, and seven respondents were receiving health or personal care in their homes.

#### TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

Five hypotheses concerning the living arrangements and housing conditions of the forty Mississippi OAA recipients were tested.

##### Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between the types of living arrangements of the subjects and their age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health.

Living arrangements were divided into three classifications: in own home, in the home of a relative, and in an institution. The living arrangement of two respondents who lived with a non-relative was considered independent (the relationship was common-law marriage); these two subjects were included in the "in own home" group. These analyses included all forty subjects.

Statistically significant relationships were found to exist between the living arrangement of the recipients and two of the six variables tested: race and health. (See Table 2). In regard to race, greater proportions of whites than nonwhites lived in the homes of relatives or in institutions. More subjects who were confined to their homes were either in the home of a relative or were institutionalized.

A chi square value approaching the .05 level of probability was obtained for the marital status variable ( $.10 < p < .05$ ). The never-married category contained only two subjects. Since the inclusion of

Table 2

Living Arrangements of 40 OAA Recipients Classified By Age, Sex, Race,  
Marital Status, Place of Residence, and Health

Characteristic	Living Arrangement										<u>x<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>df</u>
	Total		In own home		In the home of		In an		<u>x<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>df</u>		
	No.	%	No.	%	a relative	No.	%	Institution				
<u>Age</u>												
73-80	19	47.5	12	63.2	6	31.6	1	5.3	1.4	2		
81-97	21	52.5	10	47.6	8	38.1	3	14.3				
<u>Sex</u>												
Male	11	27.5	6	54.5	4	36.4	1	9.1	0.0	2		
Female	29	72.5	16	55.2	10	34.5	3	10.3				
<u>Race</u>												
White	10	25.0	3	30.0	4	40.0	3	30.0	6.9*	2		
Nonwhite	30	75.0	19	63.3	10	33.3	1	3.3				
<u>Marital Status</u>												
Married	6	15.0	6	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	8.2	4		
Widowed	32	80.0	14	43.8	14	43.8	4	12.5				
Never married	2	5.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0				



Table 2 (Continued)

Characteristic	<u>Total</u>		<u>In own home</u>		<u>Living Arrangement</u>				<u>x<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>df</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>In the home of</u>		<u>In an</u>			
					<u>a relative</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Institution</u>		
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>		
<u>Place of Residence</u>										
Metropolitan County	21	52.5	10	47.6	7	33.3	4	19.0	4.1	2
Nonmetropolitan County	19	47.5	12	63.2	7	36.8	0	0.0		
<u>Health</u>										
Confined to home	13	32.5	2	15.4	7	53.8	4	30.8		
Not confined to home	27	67.5	20	74.1	7	25.9	0	0.0	15.8**	2

\*p &lt; .05

\*\*p &lt; .001

this category increased the degrees of freedom on which the chi square was based as well as the number of zero cell entries, these respondents were included with the widowed group producing a new category entitled "no spouse". The resulting 2x3 cell chi square value was statistically significant ( $\chi^2 = 6.4$ , 2df,  $p < .05$ ). Although all of the married subjects were in their own homes, less than one-half of the "no spouse" group was in their own home (Table 2).

Findings showed that (1) more whites than nonwhites were living out of their own homes and (2) married subjects were always living in their own homes. Since there were no white married subjects, the relationship of living arrangements to race was possibly artificial. The tendency for nonwhites to be more often living in their own homes may be due to the presence of married subjects within their group rather than to race. This supposition was checked by disregarding the married subjects. The marginally significant chi square value ( $\chi^2 = 4.8$ , 2df,  $.10 < p < .05$ ) indicated that the racial relation was possibly a function of the marital status of whites. Seventy percent of the whites were living out of their own homes, while only 46 percent of the nonwhites were not living in their own homes (Table 3).

Only three of the six variables related significantly to living arrangements; thus it is not possible to reject the null hypothesis.

#### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between the housing conditions of the recipients and their age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health.

Table 3  
Living Arrangements of 34 Non-married OAA Recipients  
Classified by Race

Race	<u>Living Arrangement</u>							
	<u>Total</u>		<u>In own home</u>		<u>In the home of a relative</u>		<u>In an Institution</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White	10	29.4	3	30.0	4	40.0	3	30.0
Nonwhite	24	70.6	13	54.1	10	41.7	1	4.2

The housing conditions tested were presence of all plumbing facilities (hot running water, bathtub or shower, private toilet), heating facilities, structural defects (leaks in ceiling, holes in walls, number of repairs needed), and the presence of rats or mice in the homes of the respondents. The population consisted of the thirty-six noninstitutionalized subjects.

Of the fifty-four chi square tests made, only two relationships were found to be statistically significant (See Appendix B). Therefore, it can be assumed that these occurred by chance.

Since no significant relationships between the six variables and housing conditions of the recipients were exhibited, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected. However, further analysis was made to determine if relationships existed between the housing conditions and living arrangements of the respondents.

The eight housing condition variables were related to two types of living arrangements: (1) in own home, and (2) out of own home. The findings are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

Housing Conditions of 40 OAA Recipients  
Classified by Living Arrangements

Housing Condition	Living Arrangement				X <sup>2</sup>	df
	In own		Out of own			
	home		home			
	No.	%	No.	%		
Hot running water	9	22.5	16	40.0		
Cold or no running water	13	32.5	2	5.0	9.7**	1
Bathtub or shower	12	30.0	16	40.0		
No bathtub or shower	10	25.0	2	5.0	5.6*	1
Toilet	15	37.5	17	42.5		
No toilet	7	17.5	1	2.5	4.3*	1
All plumbing facilities	9	22.5	16	40.0		
Lacks one or more plumbing facilities	13	32.5	2	5.0	9.7**	1
All rooms heated	7	17.5	17	42.5		
Not all heated	15	37.5	1	2.5	16.1***	1
No leaks in roof	16	40.0	16	40.0		
Leaks in roof	6	15.0	2	5.0	1.6	1
No holes in walls	18	45.0	17	42.5		
Holes in walls	4	10.0	1	2.5	1.6	1
Needs no repairs	8	20.0	13	32.5		
Needs one or more repairs	14	35.0	5	12.5	8.2**	1
No rats or mice	10	25.0	15	37.5		
Rats or mice	12	30.0	3	7.5	6.1*	1

\*  $p < .05$ \*\*  $p < .01$ \*\*\*  $p < .001$

Statistically significant relationships existed between the living arrangements of the recipients and the presence of all plumbing facilities ( $p < .01$ ), hot running water ( $p < .01$ ), toilet ( $p < .05$ ), bathtub or shower ( $p < .05$ ), heating facilities ( $p < .001$ ), number of repairs needed ( $p < .01$ ), and rats or mice in the home ( $p < .05$ ). Housing conditions were significantly better for those subjects living out of their own homes.

### Hypothesis 3

There is no significant relationship between the housing conditions of the recipients and the housing conditions of the county.

The presence of plumbing facilities in the home was the only data reported by the 1970 Census of Housing (32:26-108, 26-111, 26-116) comparable to data collected in this study. The frequency and percentages of homes with plumbing facilities found among the dwellings of the forty OAA recipients and in the year round housing units in the three counties are shown in Table 5. All plumbing facilities were found in almost 90 percent of the year round housing units in the counties, whereas only 62.5 percent of the subjects had all facilities in their dwellings.

The counties were combined for analysis because the frequencies in each county were small. The chi square values were statistically significant in all four tests; therefore the null hypothesis was rejected. Fewer plumbing facilities were found in the dwellings of the forty OAA recipients than in the year round housing units of the three counties.

Table 5

Comparison of Plumbing Facilities in the Dwellings of  
40 OAA Recipients and the Year Round  
Housing Units in Three Counties

Facilities	40 OAA Recipients		<u>Housing Units</u> Year Round Housing Units in 3 Counties		X <sup>2</sup>	df
	No.	%	No.	%		
Hot running water	25	62.5	73,858	89.0		
Cold or no running water	15	37.5	9,171	11.5	28.1**	1
Bathtub or shower	28	70.0	74,014	89.1		
No bathtub or shower	12	30.0	9,015	10.9	15.1**	1
Flush toilet	32	80.0	74,915	90.2		
No flush toilet	8	20.0	8,114	9.8	4.2	1
All plumbing facilities	25	62.5	72,972	87.9		
Lacks one or more plumbing facilities	15	37.5	10,057	12.1	24.1**	1

\*p<.05

\*\*p<.001

#### Hypothesis 4

There is no significant difference between the types of living arrangements of the subjects in 1965 and 1973.

In comparing the living arrangements of the forty OAA recipients in 1965 and 1973, the categories were collapsed to form a 4-cell table. This change was made because some of the cell entries in the original 6-cell table were very small (Table 6). There was only one subject in the institutionalized category in 1965. This small frequency increased the number of degrees of freedom and the number of zero cell



Table 6

Changes in Living Arrangements of 40 OAA Recipients, 1965-1973

Living Arrangement 1965	In own home		Living Arrangement 1973			
			In the home of a relative		In an institution	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
In own home	21	52.5	7	17.5	2	5.0
In the home of a relative	1	2.5	7	17.5	1	2.5
In an institution	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.5

entries. Institutionalized respondents were combined with subjects living in the home of a relative, thus yielding two categories: living either in or out of one's own home. Table 7 shows the collapsed figures and analysis.

Table 7

Changes in Living Arrangements of 40 OAA Recipients, 1965-1973

Living Arrangement 1965	In own home		Living Arrangements 1973			
			Not in own home		X <sup>2</sup>	df
	No.	%	No.	%		
In own home	21	52.4	9	22.5		
Not in own home	1	2.5	9	22.5	6.4*	1

\*  $p < .05$

There was a statistically significant difference between the types of living arrangements in 1965 and 1973; the null hypothesis was rejected. Slightly over one-fifth of the subjects had moved out of their own homes, either to the home of a relative or to an institution.

#### Hypothesis 5

There is no significant difference between the housing conditions of the recipients in 1965 and 1973.

Eight housing conditions were compared for the years 1965 and 1973. The 1965 housing conditions of thirty-nine subjects were recorded; these cases were used in the comparison.

Statistically significant changes had occurred in only three of the eight housing factors: the presence of bathtub or shower, toilet, and the need for repairs (Table 8). Therefore, the null hypothesis could not be rejected.

A bathtub or shower and a toilet were found in almost 30 percent more of the dwellings of the subjects in 1973 than in 1965.

Twenty-five dwellings did not need repairs other than roof or holes in walls in contrast to sixteen that did not need such repairs in 1965.

#### Discussion

Three hypotheses taken from Crocker's study were tested. Results of this study differed from findings reported by Crocker in 1965. One possible reason is the difference in size of the two samples: the 1965 study surveyed 1,447 persons in contrast to the forty subjects in the 1973 study.

Table 8

Changes in Housing Conditions of 39 OAA Recipients, 1965-1973

Housing Condition 1965	Housing Condition 1973				Total 1965 No. %	$\underline{\chi^2}$	df
	Hot running water		No water or cold only				
	No.	%	No.	%			
Hot running water	14	35.9	6	15.4	20	51.3	
No water or cold only	<u>11</u>	<u>28.2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20.5</u>	19	48.7	
Total 1973	25	64.1	14	35.9		1.5	1
	Bathtub or shower		No bathtub or shower		Total 1965 No. %	$\underline{\chi^2}$	df
	No.	%	No.	%			
	No.	%	No.	%			
Bathtub or shower	17	43.6	2	5.1	19	48.7	
No bathtub or shower	<u>11</u>	<u>28.2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>23.1</u>	20	51.3	
Total 1973	28	71.8	11	28.1		6.2*	1
	Toilet		No Toilet		Total 1965 No. %	$\underline{\chi^2}$	df
	No.	%	No.	%			
	No.	%	No.	%			
Toilet	21	53.8	2	5.1	23	58.9	
No toilet	<u>11</u>	<u>28.2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12.8</u>	16	41.0	
Total 1973	32	82.0	7	17.9		6.2*	1
	All rooms heated		Not all heated		Total 1965 No. %	$\underline{\chi^2}$	df
	No.	%	No.	%			
	No.	%	No.	%			
All rooms heated	17	43.6	9	23.1	26	66.7	
Not all heated	<u>6</u>	<u>15.4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>17.9</u>	13	33.3	
Total 1973	23	59.0	16	41.0		0.6	1

\*  
p < .05

Table 8 (Continued)

Housing Condition 1965	Housing Condition 1973						$\underline{X^2}$	$\underline{df}$
	No leaks in roof		Leaks in roof		Total 1965			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
No leaks in roof	25	64.1	5	12.8	30	76.9		
Leaks in roof	<u>6</u>	<u>15.4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7.7</u>	9	23.1		
Total 1973	31	79.5	8	20.5			0.1	1
	No holes in walls		Holes in walls		Total 1965		$\underline{X^2}$	$\underline{df}$
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
No holes in walls	26	66.7	3	7.7	29	74.4		
Holes in walls	<u>8</u>	<u>20.5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5.1</u>	10	25.6		
Total 1973	34	87.2	5	12.8			2.3	1
	No other repairs needed		Other repairs needed		Total 1965		$\underline{X^2}$	$\underline{df}$
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
No other repairs needed	13	33.3	3	7.7	16	41.0		
Other repairs needed	<u>12</u>	<u>30.8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>28.2</u>	23	59.0		
Total 1973	25	64.1	14	35.9			5.4*	1
	No rats or mice		Rats or mice		Total 1965		$\underline{X^2}$	$\underline{df}$
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
No rats or mice	20	51.3	7	17.9	27	69.2		
Rats or mice	<u>4</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20.5</u>	12	30.8		
Total 1973	24	61.6	15	38.4			0.8	1

\*  $p < .05$

Crocker reported statistically significant relationships at the .001 level of confidence between the living arrangements of the subjects and the six variables of age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health (7:45). In the 1973 study, however, the only statistically significant relationships found were those existing between living arrangement and race ( $p < .05$ ), health ( $p < .001$ ), and marital status ( $p < .05$ )

The housing conditions of the OAA recipients related significantly to age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health in 1965 (7:62); however, no statistically significant relationships between these factors were found in 1973. In contrast, it was found in the 1973 study that housing conditions were related to living arrangements--they were significantly better for those subjects not living in their own homes. Relationships at the .05 level of confidence were established between the presence of a bathtub or shower, toilet, and rats or mice and the living arrangement. Relationships existed at the .01 level between the presence of hot water, all plumbing facilities, and the need for repairs and the living arrangement. A statistically significant relationship ( $p < .001$ ) was found between the presence of heat in all rooms and the living arrangement. Crocker reported similar findings in 1965: the fewest defects were found in the homes of the respondents who lived with relatives, nonrelatives, or in institutions (7:71).

Crocker used the product-moment correlation coefficient to test the relationship between the housing conditions of the counties and the subjects. She reported that there were statistically significant

relationships beyond the .001 level (7:72) between the housing conditions of the counties and those of the OAA recipients. The 1973 findings showed a statistically significant relationship to exist at the .001 level of confidence between the presence of all plumbing facilities, hot running water, and a bathtub or shower in the dwellings of the subjects and the presence of these facilities in year round housing units of the counties.

There was a statistically significant difference ( $p < .05$ ) between the types of living arrangements in 1965 and 1973. Moving from one's own home to the home of a relative or to an institution could have been caused by declining health and/or death of spouse. These were the main factors motivating changes in living arrangements in studies made by Havighurst and Albrecht (11:28) and Williams and Peterson (37:3).

Three statistically significant changes in housing conditions were found between 1965 and 1973 ( $p < .05$ ): the presence of bathtub or shower, toilet, and the need for repairs. These improvements were probably due in part to changes in living arrangements.



## CHAPTER V

## SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Since 1900 concern for the aged has grown with the steady increase in the number of older persons in the United States (30:1-269). Housing of the elderly is one problem area that has been explored by both state and national governmental agencies. Knowledge of the needs of the aged in relation to their housing is necessary to give effective aid. These facts may best be obtained by surveying the older population in small geographic areas. Local surveys reduce the number of variables and produce results that pinpoint local needs.

The purpose of this study was to determine the housing conditions and living arrangements of a selected group of Old Age Assistance (OAA) recipients in three Mississippi counties--Copiah, Hinds, and Madison; and to compare these findings with the results of the 1965 study of OAA recipients in Mississippi made by Crocker. The subjects were the living members of Crocker's study who resided in the three adjacent Mississippi counties.

Two questionnaires used by Crocker were adapted for use in this study. The Housing Condition and Living Arrangement Questionnaire was administered to the forty respondents by personal interview. The Economic Condition Questionnaire was completed from information found in the case records of the thirty-four subjects who signed a release.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Forty OAA recipients, ranging in age from 73 to 97 years, were surveyed. A majority was widowed. Nonwhite females comprised the largest group. Slightly over one-half of the recipients lived in the only metropolitan county surveyed. Twenty-seven of the respondents were not confined to their homes.

The educational level of the subjects was relatively low--two had completed high school in contrast to four who had no formal education. Farming activities or private household service was reported most frequently as former occupations.

Most of the subjects lived in single dwelling units owned by the OAA recipient or owned by someone who also lived in the unit. Twenty of the respondents lived in one- or two- person households. These households were usually composed of the recipient, the recipient and spouse, or the recipient and another adult. Four subjects lived in private institutions.

## FACILITIES IN THE DWELLINGS

The presence of communication and safety facilities believed to be important to the health and well-being of the individual was recorded. Nearly three-fourths of the forty OAA recipients reported the presence of a telephone, television, and/or radio in their homes.

Most of the recipients reported using either a gas or an electric range; three cooked on wood-burning stoves, and one had no range. Lighting facilities were found to be relatively inadequate.

Less than one-half of the subjects reported a ceiling fixture with a diffuser; for the majority of the remaining recipients a bare bulb was the lighting installation. Ventilation was rated as adequate since all subjects had windows in every room. Approximately one-third of the respondents reported broken window panes.

#### ECONOMIC STATUS

The economic condition of the OAA recipients showed some changes since 1965. The maximum OAA monthly payment increased by \$25, and 25 percent more of the recipients received the maximum amount in 1973 than in 1965. Approximately 5 percent fewer subjects received OASDI (Social Security) payments in 1973, and 25 percent more respondents received economic support from their children. All subjects received Medicaid benefits in 1973.

#### HYPOTHESES

Five hypotheses were tested: three taken from Crocker's study and two concerning changes in housing conditions and living arrangements.

##### Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between the types of living arrangements of the subjects and their age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health.

Statistically significant relationships were found to exist at the .05 level between race, health, and marital status and the living arrangement of the subjects. Whites were more often in the homes of relatives or in institutions than nonwhites. More respondents who were

confined to their homes were either in the home of a relative or were institutionalized.

The marital status variable was analyzed further by collapsing the group into two categories: "spouse" and "no spouse." The resulting chi square value was statistically significant at the .05 level. All of the married subjects were in their own homes, but less than one-half of the no spouse group were in their own homes.

Only three of the six variables related significantly to living arrangements; the null hypothesis was not rejected.

#### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between the housing conditions of the recipients and their age, sex, race, marital status, place of residence, and health.

No strong relationships were found between the six variables and housing conditions; therefore, the null hypothesis was not rejected.

Further analysis was made to determine if relationships existed between the housing conditions and living arrangements of the respondents. It was found that significant relationships did exist between living arrangements and presence of all plumbing facilities, hot running water, bathtub or shower, toilet, heating facilities, number of repairs needed, and rats or mice in the home. Housing conditions were significantly better for those subjects living out of their own homes.

#### Hypothesis 3

There is no significant relationship between the housing conditions of the recipients and the housing conditions of the county.

Plumbing facilities in the subjects' homes were compared with facilities in the year round housing units in the three counties as reported in the 1970 Census of Housing (32:26-108, 26-111, 26-116). Fewer plumbing facilities were reported in the homes of the forty OAA recipients than in the housing units of the counties. The chi square values were significant in all tests; therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected.

#### Hypothesis 4

There is no significant difference between the types of living arrangements of the subjects in 1965 and 1973.

There was significant difference between the types of living arrangements in 1965 and 1973; the null hypothesis was rejected. More respondents had moved out of their own homes, either to the home of a relative or to an institution.

#### Hypothesis 5

There is no significant difference between the housing conditions of the recipients in 1965 and 1973.

Significant changes had occurred in only three of the eight housing conditions tested; the null hypothesis was not rejected. Plumbing facilities (bathtub or shower and toilet) were found in the homes of the subjects more frequently in 1973. The homes of fewer subjects needed repairs in 1973.

### CONCLUSIONS

The type of living arrangement was a key factor in the adequacy of housing conditions for the forty OAA recipients surveyed. Living in

one's own home was the living arrangement for a majority (55 percent) of the OAA recipients; however, those subjects who lived with relatives or who lived in institutions had more adequate housing.

The following conclusions were made from the findings of this study:

(1) Housing conditions improved during the eight year period, 1965-1973. More of the homes had all plumbing facilities as compared with 1965, and fewer subjects reported a need for major repairs.

(2) Improved housing conditions were due to changes in living arrangements. A statistically significant number of the subjects had moved out of their own homes. Declining health and/or death of spouse were possible reasons for the changes in living arrangements.

(3) The aged need assistance in order to have an independent living arrangement and live in safe and adequate housing. In order to give effective assistance, the needs of the aged group must be known. Local surveys provide these specific kinds of information. If there are agencies or programs available to meet these needs, the elderly must be aware of the services.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Further research should include the updating of similar housing condition and living arrangement studies to determine changes and trends. Surveys should be made to determine the needs of the elderly in relation to specific programs (OAA program, nutrition or food services, or homemaker services). Findings from such surveys should be



made available to volunteer, civic, and church groups within the area. These non-governmental agencies should be better able to adapt programs to meet changing needs since they can operate outside governmental restraints. Services such as homemaker services, visiting nurse care, and home-repair services could be established by non-governmental agencies within the community. These types of aid would greatly enhance the opportunities for the elderly to have independent living.

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## C. Appendix A

## Interview Schedule

## ARTIST QUESTION AND LIVING ARRANGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRES

## 1. Sex:

## 2. Place of residence:

## a. Metropolitan county:

1. Place of 500,000 or more

2. Place of 250,000-499,999

3. Less than 250,000

4. Outside municipal city

## b. non-metropolitan county:

1. Place of 2,500 or more

2. Farm

3. Neither farm or town of 2,500 or more

## APPENDIXES

## 3. Race and Color:

## Male

1. White

2. Negro

3. American Indian

4. Other

5. Unknown

## Female

1. White

2. Negro

3. American Indian

4. Other

5. Unknown

## 4. Marital status:

1. Married, spouse present

2. Married, spouse not present

3. Separated

4. Divorced

5. Widowed

6. Never married

7. Unknown

## 5. Living Arrangement:

## Present

1. In own home

2. In home of son, daughter, parent

3. In home of other relative

4. In home of non-relative

5. Somewhere in institution

(Shrinking, convalescent, mental)

6. Somewhere not in institution

(Hotel, boarding house, etc.)

## 7. Living Arrangement

## One year ago

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

## Appendix A

## Interview Schedules

## HOUSING CONDITION AND LIVING ARRANGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. CASE # \_\_\_\_\_
2. Place of residence:
  - In metropolitan county:
    - \_\_\_ 0. Place of 500,000 or more
    - \_\_\_ 1. Place of 250,000-499,999
    - \_\_\_ 2. Less than 250,000
    - \_\_\_ 3. Outside central city
  - In non-metropolitan county:
    - \_\_\_ 4. Place of 2,500 or more
    - \_\_\_ 5. Farm
    - \_\_\_ 6. Neither farm or town of 2,500 or more
3. \_\_\_ Age
4. Sex and Race:
 

Male ___ 0. White ___ 1. Negro ___ 2. American Indian ___ 3. Other ___ 4. Unknown	Female ___ 5. White ___ 6. Negro ___ 7. American Indian ___ 8. Other ___ 9. Unknown
--	--
5. Marital status:
  - \_\_\_ 1. Married, spouse present
  - \_\_\_ 2. Married, spouse not present
  - \_\_\_ 3. Separated
  - \_\_\_ 4. Divorced
  - \_\_\_ 5. Widowed
  - \_\_\_ 6. Never married
  - \_\_\_ 7. Unknown
6. Living Arrangement
  - Present
    - \_\_\_ 1. In own home
    - \_\_\_ 2. In home of son, daughter, parent
    - \_\_\_ 3. In home of other relative
    - \_\_\_ 4. In home of non-relative
    - \_\_\_ 5. Elsewhere in institution  
(Nursing, convalescent, medical)
    - \_\_\_ 6. Elsewhere not in institution  
(hotel, boarding house, etc.)
7. Living Arrangement
  - One year ago
    - \_\_\_ 1.
    - \_\_\_ 2.
    - \_\_\_ 3.
    - \_\_\_ 4.
    - \_\_\_ 5.
    - \_\_\_ 6.

8. Persons living in housing unit;
- ☐ 0. Inapplicable
  - ☐ 1. Recipient only
  - ☐ 2. Recipient and spouse
  - ☐ 3. Recipient's children, 18 and over living in home
  - ☐ 4. Other adults living in home
  - ☐ 5. Children under 18 living in home
  - ☐ 6. Total in housing unit
9. Housing unit structure
- ☐ 0. Inapplicable, not housing unit
  - ☐ 1. Structure with only one housing unit
  - ☐ 2. Structure with 2-4 housing units
  - ☐ 3. Structure with 5 or more housing units
  - ☐ 4. House trailer
10. Housing unit owned or rented:
- ☐ 0. Inapplicable, not housing unit
- Housing unit owned or being bought
- ☐ 1. By recipient or spouse
  - ☐ 2. By someone else living in it
- Housing unit rented
- ☐ 3. Public housing
  - ☐ 4. Privately owned housing
  - ☐ 5. Housing unit occupied rent free
  - ☐ 6. Unknown
11. Is recipient confined to home?
- ☐ 1. Bedfast
  - ☐ 2. Chairfast
  - ☐ 3. Not bedfast nor chairfast
  - ☐ 4. Needs help from others to get around outside home
  - ☐ 5. Does not need to get around outside home
  - ☐ 6. Unknown
12. What is the last grade in school you completed? \_\_\_\_\_
13. If you have been employed for pay and worked either for someone else or for yourself -- What kind of work did you do most of the time?
- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Never had a paying job
14. Running water inside house:
- ☐ 0. Yes
  - ☐ 1. No
  - ☐ 2. Cold water only
  - ☐ 3. Hot and cold water
  - ☐ 4. Bathtub or shower
  - ☐ 5. No bathtub or shower
  - ☐ 6. Bathroom with flush toilet
  - ☐ 7. No bathroom with flush toilet

15. Is every room in which you live heated in winter?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No
16. Have you seen a rat or mouse inside the house in the past week?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No
17. Does the roof leak when it rains?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No
18. Are there any holes as big as your hand in the plaster walls or ceiling?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No
19. a. Is this house in need of any major repairs?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No  
b. What major repairs are needed? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Is there a telephone in this house or building?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No
21. What kind of range do you cook on?  
\_\_\_ 1. wood burning  
\_\_\_ 2. gas  
\_\_\_ 3. electric  
\_\_\_ 4. oil burning  
\_\_\_ 5. none
22. What type of lighting fixtures are in this house?  
\_\_\_ 1. drop cord, bare bulb  
\_\_\_ 2. ceiling fixture with diffuser  
\_\_\_ 3. ceiling fixture, no diffuser  
\_\_\_ 4. other \_\_\_\_\_
23. Do you have a radio?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No
24. Do you have a television?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No
25. Do all the rooms in your house have windows?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No

26. Are any of the window panes in your house broken?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No
27. Are the steps and porch in good condition (no holes, not falling down)?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No  
\_\_\_ 3. No porch or steps
28. This is a list of some health problems that people have. Please tell me if you have the problem and the year in which you first had the problem.  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes \_\_\_ Blind or almost in both eyes, even with glasses  
\_\_\_ 2. No  
\_\_\_ 3. Yes \_\_\_ Deaf or almost deaf in both ears, even with a hearing  
\_\_\_ 4. No \_\_\_ aid  
\_\_\_ 5. Yes \_\_\_ Paralysis of any kind  
\_\_\_ 6. No  
\_\_\_ 7. Yes \_\_\_ An old hip or leg injury that still bothers you  
\_\_\_ 8. No
29. a. Do you have heart trouble?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No  
b. Have you seen a doctor about it in the last 6 months?  
\_\_\_ 3. Yes  
\_\_\_ 4. No
30. a. Do you have high blood pressure?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No  
b. Have you seen a doctor about it in the last 6 months?  
\_\_\_ 3. Yes  
\_\_\_ 4. No
31. a. Do you have diabetes?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No  
b. Have you seen a doctor about it in the last 6 months?  
\_\_\_ 3. Yes  
\_\_\_ 4. No
32. a. Do you have arthritis or rheumatism?  
\_\_\_ 1. Yes  
\_\_\_ 2. No  
b. Have you seen a doctor about it in the last 6 months?  
\_\_\_ 3. Yes  
\_\_\_ 4. No

33. a. Do you have other health problems or conditions?

1. Yes

2. No

b. Please tell me the names of these conditions and whether you have seen a doctor in the past 6 months about them?

---

---

34. Have you been in the hospital in the past 12 months?

1. Yes

2. No

For what condition? 

---

35. Do you have any more explanations or comments about your housing which you think will be helpful in this study?



## ECONOMIC CONDITION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. CASE # \_\_\_\_\_
2. ☐ Persons included in OAA budget
3. ☐ Persons in housing unit, not included in OAA budget
4. Assistance status of spouse
  - ☐ 1. Inapplicable, no spouse in home
  - ☐ 2. Spouse in recipient's OAA paymentSpouse receiving
  - ☐ 3. Separate OAA payment
  - ☐ 4. MAA
  - ☐ 5. AB
  - ☐ 6. APTD
  - ☐ 7. ADC
  - ☐ 8. General relief only
  - ☐ 9. Receiving no public assistance
5. Receipt of public assistance by other persons in household:
  - ☐ 0. Inapplicable
  - ☐ 1. OAA only
  - ☐ 2. MAA only
  - ☐ 3. AB only
  - ☐ 4. APTD only
  - ☐ 5. ADC only
  - ☐ 6. OAA and one or more others
  - ☐ 7. Two or more types without OAA
  - ☐ 8. General relief only
  - ☐ 9. None
  - ☐ x. Unknown
6. Children of recipient:
  - ☐ 1. Number living children
  - ☐ 2. Number dependent children
  - ☐ 3. Number nondependent children
  - ☐ 4. Number nondependent contributing to recipient's support
  - ☐ 5. Number nondependent contributing children living with recipient

7. Receipt of OASDI benefits:
- ☐ 1. Both recipient and spouse
  - ☐ 2. Recipient only
  - ☐ 3. Spouse only
  - ☐ 4. Neither recipient nor spouse
  - ☐ 5. Single person receives benefits
  - ☐ 6. Single person does not receive benefits
8. Receipt of benefits other than OASDI:
- ☐ 1. None
  - ☐ 2. Veterans benefits only
  - ☐ 3. Railroad benefits only
  - ☐ 4. Other federally administered only
  - ☐ 5. Other benefit or pension only
  - ☐ 6. More than one type of benefit
9. Problems in which social services are needed:
- ☐ 1. None
  - ☐ 2. Need of protection
  - ☐ 3. Remaining in or returning to own home or community
  - ☐ 4. Self care
  - ☐ 5. Isolated or estranged from family
10. Social services during last 90 days:
- ☐ 0. None
  - ☐ 1. Health care
  - ☐ 2. Improved financial functioning
  - ☐ 3. Maintaining family and improving family functioning
  - ☐ 4. Maintaining or improving social relationships, participation in community life
  - ☐ 5. Maintaining home
  - ☐ 6. Protective services
  - ☐ 7. Returning persons to home in community from institutional care
  - ☐ 8. Self care services
  - ☐ 9. Other \_\_\_\_\_
11. Need for personal care in home:
- ☐ 1. Does not need personal care
  - ☐ 2. Needs personal care, does not receive
  - ☐ 3. Receives aid 35 or more hours per week
  - ☐ 4. Receives aid less than 35 hours per week
  - ☐ 5. Receives aid from other hired help
  - ☐ 6. Receives aid from other member of household
  - ☐ 7. Receives aid from someone outside of home
  - ☐ 8. Needs personal care, unknown if received
  - ☐ 9. Unknown if person needs personal care

12. Need for person in home and on call
- ☐ 1. Inapplicable, person in institution
  - ☐ 2. Does not need person on call
  - ☐ 3. Needs, does not have person on call
  - ☐ 4. Needs, does have person on call
  - ☐ 5. Unknown, if need person on call

13. Assistance budget:
- ☐ 1. Total
  - ☐ 2. Food
  - ☐ 3. Shelter, fuel, utilities
  - ☐ 4. Nursing home care
  - ☐ 5. Other medical care
  - ☐ 6. Other special need items
  - ☐ 7. All other requirements

14. Health insurance
- ☐ 1. Hospital care only
  - ☐ 2. Physicians' services only
  - ☐ 3. Both
  - ☐ 4. None

18. Amount of cash reserve:

- ☐ 0. Under \$100
- ☐ 1. \$100-199
- ☐ 2. \$200-299
- ☐ 3. \$300-399
- ☐ 4. \$400-499
- ☐ 5. \$500-599
- ☐ 6. \$600-699
- ☐ 7. \$700-799
- ☐ 8. \$800-899
- ☐ 9. \$900 or more

Appendix B

Table 9

Housing Conditions of 36 OAA Recipients Classified by Age, Sex, Race, Marital Status,  
Place of Residence, and Health

Housing Conditions	Age		Characteristic		Sex		Race		Marital Status			Place of Residence		Health												
	73 - 80		81 - 97		Male No. %	Female No. %	White No. %	Nonwhite No. %	Married No. %	Widowed No. %	Never married No. %	Metropolitan County No. %	Nonmetropolitan County No. %	Confined to home No. %	Not confined to home No. %											
	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %												No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %					
Hot running water	10	27.8	11	30.6	6	16.7	15	41.7	5	13.9	16	44.4	4	11.1	17	47.2	0	0.0	12	33.3	9	25.0	6	16.0	15	41.7
Cold or no water	8	22.2	7	19.4	4	11.1	11	30.6	2	5.6	13	36.1	2	5.6	11	30.6	2	5.6	5	13.9	10	27.8	3	8.3	12	33.3
Bathtub or shower	13	36.1	11	30.6	7	19.4	17	47.2	6	16.7	18	50.0	6	16.0	17	47.2	1	2.8	14	38.9	10	27.8	7	19.4	17	47.2
No bathtub or shower	5	13.9	7	19.4	3	8.3	9	25.0	1	2.8	11	30.6	0	0.0	11	30.6	1	2.8	3	8.3	9	25.0	2	5.6	10	28.8
Toilet	15	41.7	13	36.1	9	25.0	19	52.8	6	16.7	22	61.1	6	16.0	20	55.6	2	5.6	14	38.9	14	38.9	8	22.2	20	55.8
No toilet	3	8.3	5	13.9	1	2.8	7	27.8	1	2.8	7	19.4	0	0.0	8	22.2	0	0.0	3	8.3	5	13.9	1	2.8	7	19.4
All plumbing facilities	10	27.8	11	30.6	6	16.7	15	41.7	5	13.9	16	44.4	4	11.1	17	47.2	0	0.0	12	33.3	9	25.0	6	16.0	15	41.7
Lacks one or more plumbing facilities	8	22.2	7	19.4	4	11.1	11	22.2	2	5.6	13	36.1	2	5.6	11	30.6	2	5.6	5	13.9	10	27.8	3	8.3	12	33.3
All rooms heated	8	22.2	12	33.3	5	13.9	15	41.7	5	13.9	15	41.7	1	2.8	19	52.8	0	0.0	11	30.6	9	25.0	7	19.4	13	36.1
Not all heated	10	27.8	6	16.7	5	13.9	11	30.6	2	5.6	14	38.9	5	13.9	9	25.0	2	5.6	6	16.0	10	27.8	2	5.6	14	38.9
No leaks in roof	14	38.9	14	38.9	8	22.2	20	55.8	5	13.9	23	63.9	6	16.0	21	59.5	1	2.8	13	36.1	15	41.7	8	22.2	20	55.8
Leaks in roof	4	11.1	4	11.1	2	5.6	6	16.7	2	5.6	6	16.0	0	0.0	7	19.4	1	2.8	4	11.1	4	11.1	1	2.8	7	19.4
No holes in walls	15	41.7	16	44.4	8	22.2	23	63.9	7	19.0	24	71.7	6	16.0	23	63.9	2	5.6	15	41.7	16	44.4	9	25.0	22	61.1
Holes in walls	3	8.3	2	5.6	2	5.6	3	8.3	0	0.0	5	13.9	0	0.0	5	13.9	0	0.0	2	5.6	3	8.3	0	0.0	5	13.9
Needs no repairs	5	13.9	12	33.3	5	13.9	12	33.3	4	11.1	13	36.1	2	5.6	14	38.9	1	2.8	8	22.2	9	25.0	5	13.9	12	33.3
Needs one or more repairs	13	36.1	6	16.7	5	13.9	14	38.9	3	8.3	16	44.4	4	11.1	14	38.9	1	2.8	9	25.0	10	27.8	4	11.1	15	41.7
No rats or mice	11	30.6	10	27.8	7	19.4	14	38.9	5	13.9	16	44.4	2	5.6	18	50.0	1	2.8	10	27.8	11	30.6	6	16.0	15	41.7
Rats or mice	7	19.4	8	22.2	3	8.3	12	33.3	2	5.6	13	36.1	4	11.1	10	27.8	1	2.8	7	19.0	8	22.2	3	8.3	12	33.3